SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PLANS PUBLIC MEETINGS

Continued From Page 1

resources by 1979; outlining a five-year plan for the U. S. Department of Agriculture's conservation assistance; and evaluating the effectiveness of ongoing programs.

Any individual or groups with a conservation interest are invited to attend this public meeting on June 12 and take a hand in the development of future conservation programs by letting their needs, desires and objectives be known.

TOMMY SESLER CRUSADE CONTINUES

Continued From Page 1

already at Rustburg, Virginia. Then the question came from Rustburg. "Would Tommy Sesler be willing to lead us in our crusade?" Simultaneously God was working in a mighty way in the ministry of the Tommy Sesler Evangelistic Association. Doors were being opened all over America to large area-wide crusades. Faced with opportunities for major crusades in Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Alabama, Virginia, Ohio, and New York City (The New York Crusade, scheduled for September of 1978 promises to be the largest ever held by Tommy) he began to cut back his church revival schedule of 25-30 per year and enlarge the size and scope of his area-wide crusade ministry. Miracles began to happen. Tommy and a board member of T.S.E.A. flew to Virginia at the request of local pastors and laymen to discuss the possibilities. of the Central Virginia Tommy Sesler Crusade. Tommy along with another team member returned to Virginia and received the official invitation to lead in the two phase crusade. On both of these occasions the Sesler Team came at their own expense saying, "We want to invest in this crusade ourselves and work as partners together with you." Thus was the beginning of what promised to be the greatest spiritual event in the history of these two communities.

Phase I of the Crusade was held July, 1977. Twenty-four (24) first time commitments for Christ was made, and fifty-three (53) people rededicated their lives. God really blessed in this great evangelistic endeavor. Many lives were changed, churches revived, and communities spiritually enriched as a result of the Rustburg Crusade.

The steering committee believed that Phase II Appomattox would be even greater. So far it is even greater than expected. The meetings are scheduled to resume June 5 - Who knows what will happen except God Himself?

Dept. of Education

Continued From Page 1

required number of units and also must demonstrate competence in communicative skills - reading, writing, and speaking - and computational skills; have a basic knowledge of the history and cultures of the United States and its economic system, and have the ability to pursue high education, or to find employment.

Since that decision, there have been changes in the minimum competency program. Last March, the Board of Education decided that high school students will be required to pass state-prescribed reading and mathematics tests before receiving diplomas. Assessment of competencies in other areas was left to the school divisions.

The board's decision to provide uniform testing in matchematics and reading stemmed from revisions of the Standards of Quality for public schools which were approved by the 1978 General Assembly for the two years beginning July 1, 1978.

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He Dived And Found A Closer Walk With God

By Frances H. Paulette

You have heard often of the lost week end but Harold Martin, 42, of the Oakville Community of Appomattox lost a week - - - or so he's told.

Martin, married to the former Doris Caldwell of Appomattox and the father of two sons, had always been a hard worker, so while on vacation from his job at General Electric he was glad to help his cousin cut tobacco. Being a farm boy from birth, he knew what it was all about.

The work was completed for the day and Harold Martin was dirty with the kind of tobacco stain and sweat that really gets to a guy.

Deciding that he and his son and his cousin's daughters could use a bit of cooling off, they headed for one of the farm ponds. Since his son was the only one of the youngsters who could swim, he was allowing the other children to jump off the diving board into his arms. Finally he declared, "This is enough of you kids having all of the fun, I'm the one who has been doing the work, now I am going to have a dive!" He did, and it was refreshing.

As Harold began his second dive his feet slipped on the slippery board and he began falling head first toward the diving board. He didn't hit the board, he went straight to the bottom of the pond, landing on his head. For one fleeting moment he lost consciousness.

Martin will never forget the courage with which his son, then nine, pulled him from the pond. He was taken to Lynchburg General Hospital where he was to have the first of many operations necessary to save his life. He learned the news that was to change his life; he had a severed spinal cord and a crushed vertebra in his neck. Then came the lost week.

The accident occured on August 16, 1968; Martin remembered nothing after learning the heartbreaking news until August 23. In November of 1968, Harold went home but it was not to be for long. In January of the following year he was taken to the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fisherville.

It was after Martin's arrival at Fisherville that a doctor very frankly told him that he would never walk again, but he didn't give up.

During his 15-month stay at the center he was in therapy five hours each day, in addition he had a number of operations.

Martin's next move was to go home for a stay of seven months; at the end of that time he was moved again, this time to the Medical Care Center in Lynchburg.

"You know," said Martin, "for some reason or other, until about two years ago I had the idea I would somehow fool the doctors and recover. I kept thinking about how I could show my gratitude to God for sparing my life. I wanted to serve him more than I ever had."

Serve God is just what Harold Martin has done - - - right where he is. Though he attended Mt. Comfort Church, occasionaly taught Sunday School, read his Bible and prayed, he was before the accident, in his own words, a "dead Christian." Not any more!!

Around the Medical Center he is known for his willingness to do for others. He reads mail to patients who have vision problems and reads the Bible to all who will listen. He feels that being at the Center is God's plan for his life.

He took a dive, and found a closer walk with God.

(At this time, Harold is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital but hopes to return to Medical Care Center soon. At either place, he would still appreciate being remembered with cards and visits.)

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Capital Comments

By Dan Daniel
Fifth District, Virginia

WASHINGTON - Last month, one of the television networks presented a documentary titled, "NATO - A Shocking State of Readiness." I watched it with interest, since as a Member of the Committee on Armed Services, NATO is among the subjects with which I must deal. This interest was intensified when I was subsequently elected Chairman of a Special Subcommittee on NATO Standardization, Interoperability and Readiness. That name is a mouthful, but it is nothing compared to the scope of the assignment.

Readiness, of course, defines itself. Are American troops assigned to Western Europe equipped and trained to perform the functions they will be assigned in the event of hostilities? On this point all the information presented to us has not been assessed, but we are hopeful the conclusions will be at least somewhat more optimistic than is presently indicated. Conditions, however, are not good.

Standardization is easy to explain, but will be difficult - if not impossible - to implement. It is all very well to say that every one of the members of the Alliance should use the same weaponry. But political and economic realities intrude. In the absence of war, each military force is under the control of its own government. Thus, the British will insist on British-made equipment, the West Germans on West German-made, and so on. This is admittedly not efficient, or cost-effective, but we are operating in the "real world."

Interoperability, on the other hand, may be more difficult to explain but, of the two, the easier to accomplish. It is ridiculous, for example, that the Allies cannot service each other's airplanes. Ridiculous, but true. By developing such items as common starting units, ammunition, and jet fuels, along with some cross training, the problems will not be cured, but they will certainly be improved. As one example, it took 25 years for the Allied Air Forces Central Europe to be developed, enabling air-to-air and ground-to-air communications among the various air forces. There is much yet to be done.

On the ground, interoperability is achievable, too. Although it is not presently the case, there is reason to hope that common logistic support is attainable. Common stocks of such things as munitions and fuel makes more sense than maintaining separate stores for each nation.

Hopefully, out of these hearings will come a better public understanding of NATO's role in keeping the world's peace.

Many people view NATO as a vast, multi-national army. It is not. There are American units, British units, Dutch units, but there are no NATO units. There is a Supreme Allied Commander, but he has nothing to command, and will not until the Alliance is attacked. It is a military alliance, but until such time as it faces a common threat, each member-nation retains its sovereignty.

And if NATO is not what it seems to be, its role is not what it was.

In the beginning - 1949 - the nations of Western Europe sought the protection of the American nuclear "umbrella." The Soviet Union had not developed nuclear capability, and was years away from an intercontinental delivery system. An attack on one of the countries of Western Europe would have been a "tripwire," resulting in nuclear retaliation on our part, aimed at Russian soil. Clearly, we were protectors of all the rest.

Then things changed. Russia acquired atomic weapons - in large part by theft from the Allies, it must be remembered. And in short order, also achieved delivery capability. Counterattack from the continental United States could elicit a like response. It became obvious we had reached a standoff.

Subsequently, the Soviet Union has embarked on military ventures in virtually every corner of the world. A strategy of encirclement is evolving. For this reason, if for no other, it is vital to our national interests to preserve and defend mutually what is left of the free world.

NATO is not without problems, but the problems without NATO would be worse.

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